

REMARKS

Claim 21 is amended to correct a minor informality. Claims 23-25 are added as new claims. Support is found, for example, in the last paragraph on page 30, the first paragraph on page 47 and the second paragraph on page 65 of the specification. No new matter is presented.

Accordingly, upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-14 and 21-25 will be all of the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6, 8, 11-14, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kanda et al (EP '900) with Fujimoto et al (US '006, which is being cited to support the Examiner's assertion that methylene blue is an infrared absorbent).

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kanda et al in view of Bi et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for the following reasons.

The rejections rely primarily on the disclosure of Kanda et al. The Examiner states, "the monomer unit of ethylene glycol dimethacrylate teaches present repeating unit having a radical-polymerizable group of formula (A)." However, Applicants submit that the Examiner's interpretation is incorrect. Specifically, in Example 2 of Kanda et al, ethylene glycol dimethacrylate is used as one of the raw materials of the polymer. It should be noted that the two unsaturated bonds in ethylene glycol dimethacrylate are equivalent, thus having the same reactivity. Accordingly, both of the unsaturated bonds react at the time of polymer synthesis

(polymerization), whereby both unsaturated bonds are converted to saturated bonds, as indicated by the following reaction formula:



Since the unsaturated bonds disappear, the unit in the polymer is outside the scope of a unit having a radical-polymerizable group of formula (A) or (C) recited in the present claims. Accordingly, Kanda et al, neither teaches nor suggests the polymerizable compositions and planographic printing plate precursors of the presently claimed invention.

Further, Kanda et al only teaches a flexographic printing plate (see, e.g., page 10, lines 45 to 46) while claim 6 of the present application and dependent claims therefrom are directed to planographic printing plate precursors. For the reasons described above, the planographic printing plate precursors of the presently claimed invention are structurally different from the flexographic printing plate of Kanda et al, and are processed by totally different lasers and developing methods from those used for the flexographic printing plate of Kanda, et al.

Bi et al does not remedy the deficiencies of Kanda et al.

In view of the above, the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination, do not render the present invention obvious. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the obviousness rejection.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 7 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 7 depends from claim 6, which is distinguished over the art of record for the reasons set forth above. Therefore, claim 7 is allowable as presently written. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

III. New Claims

New claim 23 depends from claim 1 and new claims 24-25 depend from claim 6. Each of claim 1 and claim 6 are distinguished over the art of record for the reasons set forth above and claims 23-26 are distinguished for at least the same reasons, respectively.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. App. Ser. No. 10/673,332

Atty. Dckt. No. Q77298

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

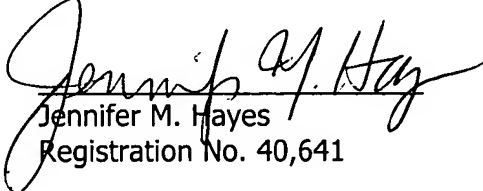
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